

## **Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education**

**September 17, 2024**

*This report provides highlights of the board meeting and are not the official meeting minutes.*

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### **The Board received Numerous Reports that will be further detailed in the Board Meeting Minutes:**

FHS Jr. Quinn Krzeminski was administered the Oath of Office and seated as a student board member. Student board members serve as a voice for students, as well as a messenger of awareness to students. The role gives the appointed student the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership skills, learn about civic engagement and influence their peers to get involved.

A Public Hearing was held on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

### **Superintendent Report**

**Hispanic Heritage Month** - "Pioneers of Change; Shaping the Future Together. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, we take this time to honor the rich history, culture, and significant contributions of the Hispanic and Latino communities. In keeping with this theme, we have organized a range of events throughout the district to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and enhance our understanding and appreciation of these contributions.

The Equity Department is sponsoring its **3rd Annual Resource and Wellness Fair** on Monday, September 30, from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM. Several Community Organizations will be participating in this event. There will be activities for children who attend with their parents. There will be a guest speaker from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, (AFSP), who will share information with parents around the prevention of suicides with teens.

**Spanish Report Card Update:** At this time the bilingual teachers at Blackhawk Elementary are using the SLA curriculum maps to teach the HMH *¡Arriba La Lectura!* resources using the ClassHero platform. The ELA teachers at Empire and Blackhawk Elementaries are working through the process of developing the curriculum maps and

will begin to use them to teach the HMH *Into Reading* resources using the ClassHero platform at the beginning of Module 3. Drs. Cloat & del Castillo will continue to provide the board with updates

**E-Learning Student Survey:** Per Board request, an optional student survey about e-learning days was sent to students in grades 3-12. The survey asked if “students would rather have e-learning days when school is closed because of bad weather or add school days to the end of the school year” and included a brief explanation of e-learning days and emergency days. Of the 278 respondents, 71% prefer e-learning days to emergency days.

Ben Skipor, Freeport Student Garden Coordinator, applied for the **USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant**. As a result, the Freeport Student Garden(FSG) has been awarded \$43,047.76 through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant. The project is called "High Tunnel Production of Cucumbers and Tomatoes in Northern Illinois: Extending Growing Season and Learning Opportunities for Urban Youth." Funds will be used to purchase high tunnels, specialty tilling equipment, seeds, and other equipment in addition to paying students to serve as research assistants.

### **Enrollment Update**

9/18/23 3692

9/16/24 3741

**ISBE Early Childhood Update:** Governor Pritzker has enacted a new agency to shift the structure of all of the major early childhood services and funding streams in Illinois to create the Illinois Division of Early Childhood (IDEC). As part of that process, the Governor has selected a team of people to serve as part of the Transition Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC team has asked the Regional Offices of Education and the Birth to Five groups who have the same service area to collaborate and hold listening sessions in our service area to assure that we are gathering the voices and true needs and experiences of all families.

### **Information Reports:**

The **monthly financial report** was provided by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance.

**Nutrition & Dining Services Update:** Director Amanda Williams provided an update of NDS. She covered staffing, indicating they are well staffed with only 4 open positions at this time. She indicated that catered services are provided to R.O.E SITE & FAHS,

Aquin and Immanuel Lutheran. She provided numbers of meals being promoted at different locations and praised her staff for the work they do to serve our children.

**Press Issue 115:** The Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Reference Education Subscription Service provides policy updates to subscribing School Districts on a quarterly basis. These updates are due to changes in legislation, administrative rules, PRESS Advisory Board feedback, quality assurance, or other factors. These policies have been reviewed by Central Office Administrators and provided to board members.

There was a recommendation for an **AVID Secretary** position from October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, to fill the gap in one unfilled AVID Site Coordinator position. This temporary clerical position will oversee the logistical details of AVID implementation so that the District AVID Director and the Site Coordinator can maximize their time supporting teachers and students. At the end of the school year, we will review AVID implementation data, student growth and achievement data, and the 2025-26 budget to determine if this will become a permanent position.

**Social Studies Curriculum Development and Early Implementation:** The Social Studies Curriculum Review sub committee for grades 6-8 conducted a thorough curriculum review process and determined Discovery Ed to be the preferred material for full implementation for the 2025-2026 school year. Three key components are needed for a robust curriculum implementation: a scope and sequence, a curriculum map; and instructional routines. It is proposed that the Social Studies Curriculum Review sub committee for grades 6-8 use Discovery Ed materials during an “experimental implementation” during the 2024-2025 school year to develop those components.

**Turk Tank contract** for one year for an amount not to exceed \$18,000. District field events require painting and maintenance in accordance with the IHSA rules. The district is seeking to use a robot to perform all paint and art work of all sport fields. A painter robot is able to paint a football or soccer field in minutes whereas, staff can perform the same job in three to four hours’ time.

### **Approved the Consent Agenda**

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report August 20, 2024
- C. A-Net System Level 2024-2025
- D. Approval of Interfund loan to the Education & Capital Fund
- E. Differential Adjustment Fall 2024
- F. FY 2025 Budget

### **Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items**

- A. Italy Trip 2026
- B. MANRRSS Summer Trip 2025
- C. Differential Request Spring 24-25
- D. Reciprocal Reporting Agreements with Local Law Enforcements Agencies
- E. Job Description AVID Secretary

### **Board Member Committee Reports**

Reports were provided by Members Charlene Williams & Kacey Seal for the Education Committee: Member Williams also reported for the Equity Committee.

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The public is always invited and encouraged to attend Freeport School District Board of Education meetings. The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on September 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held at the FSD administrative office, located at 500 E. South St, and can be accessed virtually, (unless otherwise communicated). Information on joining the meetings can be found [here](#).